

## CLAIMS

1. A method of sending an e-mail message from a computer to a telephone, comprising the steps of:

preparing the e-mail message and attaching forwarding  
5 information of at least one addressee thereto, said forwarding information including at least the e-mail address of a remote proxy server;

10 sending the e-mail message via the Internet to said remote proxy server's e-mail address;

said remote proxy server ascertaining the telephone number of the at least one addressee; and

forwarding the e-mail message as a voice message to said telephone number.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said forwarding information  
15 contains a facsimile or telephone number.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein said step of sending the e-mail message comprises the steps of:

routing the e-mail message to a MAPI (Message Application  
Program Interface) Spooler located on a local proxy server coupled to  
20 said computer; and

converting the e-mail message to a voice message format.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said local proxy server comprises a Computer Telephone Integration (CTI) card or a voice modem and wherein said step of sending the e-mail message comprises the step of: said CTI card or said voice modem transmitting said voice

5 message.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of ascertaining the addressee's telephone number comprises the step of:

looking-up the addressee's telephone number from a look-up database table located at said remote proxy server, said look-up database table comprising at least the addressee's telephone number and the addressee's incoming internet address.

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6. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of forwarding the email message as a voice message comprises the step of:

verifying the sender's details; and  
if the sender is an authorized user forwarding the message.

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7. A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of forwarding the email message as a voice message comprises the step of:

converting text messages to speech format.

8. A method according to claim 1 and further comprising the steps of:

recording the addressee's reply to the voice message as a wave file; and

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transmitting the reply via the Internet to a Voice Proxy Message Store Server located at said local proxy server.

9. A forwarder comprising:

means for extracting forwarding information from an incoming  
e-mail message;

means for verifying the sender, and

5 means for forwarding said voice message to the addressee of \_  
said forwarding information.

10. A forwarder according to claim 9, further comprising:

a look-up table containing at least the addressee's telephone  
number and the addressee's incoming internet address.

10 11. A forwarder according to claim 9, further comprising:

means for converting said e-mail message to a voice message.

12. A method of forwarding an incoming message to a telephone, said  
message comprising forwarding information of at least one addressee  
attached thereto, the method comprising the steps of:

15 ascertaining the telephone number of the at least one addressee;

and

forwarding the e-mail message as a voice message to said  
telephone number.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said step of ascertaining the  
20 addressee's telephone number comprises the step of:

looking-up the addressee's telephone number from a look-up  
database table located at said remote proxy server, said look-up

database table comprising at least the addressee's telephone number and the addressee's incoming internet address.

14. A method according to claim 12, wherein said step of forwarding the email message as a voice message comprises the step of:

5                   verifying the sender's details; and

                  if the sender is an authorized user forwarding the message.

15. A method according to claim 12, wherein said step of forwarding the email message as a voice message comprises the step of:  
converting text messages to speech format.

- 10      16. A method according to claim 12, wherein said incoming message is any  
one of a group including faxes, telephone voice messages and text  
messages.